

Personal.

Lisbon, July 16, 1940.

AG - 48 7/23

Dear Doctor Gregg,

Thankyou so much for your letter of the 12th, and for your advice about the bonus question. Yes, I quite agree; it is much better from every point of view to have the money remain with the RF, rather than start a banking account. As a matter of fact the idea of a bank account came to my mind only when there was some talk of possible reluctance on the part of the RF to accept holding the funds; when Mr. Gunn was leaving La Baule, we were not at all certain that the RF would consent to keep our bonuses; hence the plan of setting up an account in NY, as a "second best" scheme. But now that there seems to be no objection on Mr. Beal's part to keeping the money (at least for the time being), I feel perfectly happy. Many thanks for the trouble you took to give me your kind advice.

When you say "the Glizbe affair is finished satisfactorily, does that mean that the Foundation has decided to raise the original amount? I do hope that is the case. When I saw Mrs. Glizbe last - it was on June 5th, in Paris - she had definitely made up her mind to stay there, no matter what happened; and I think she did the wise thing. I gave her on June 5th a sum of 27,000 Francs - her six months bonus - so that she should still have plenty of money on hand; prices have gone up in Paris recently, but not as much as one might have feared; considering the fall of the French franc outside of France; and as far as I am able to judge (from the letters I get from my mother, from La Baule, and from ~~many~~ friends in the occupied and non-occupied territories), there is plenty of food almost everywhere. Gasoline has disappeared entirely, and no private individual is allowed to use his car. A friend of mine in Biarritz wrote me yesterday that after September 1st people will be allowed to return to Paris. The German occupation troops are numerous in the Bordeaux-Biarritz region, and for the time being (for how long?) they are apparently relatively polite.

The last two weeks I spent in France has been an unusual experience from the psychological standpoint. When such a time comes, people drop the cloak, the façade, under which you were accustomed to see them, and they appear before you quite naked, just as they actually are; the fact of being so deeply involved in something - whether sentimentally, emotionally or otherwise - brings out in individuals the worst and the best; I have had dozens of surprises in both senses; but I discovered once more than you can know people for twenty years - or at least you may think you know them - without being able to predict or foresee how they are likely to act under emergency circumstances. But in certain individuals - mostly outside of the RF - the tragic events brought out a spirit of "everything-is-lost-anyway" and "therefore sauve-qui-peut", which in some cases has been a considerable disappointment to me. Some of these people are now in Lisbon, and have again taken on their previous "peace time" façade. This certainly is a curious world!

You mention Meyerhof, and I wonder if A.V.Hill has any definite plans for him. The last I heard was that Meyerhof was at Toulouse; a month ago he wrote from there to Prof. Ferreira de Mira, of Lisbon, telling him he had a Portuguese transit visa, but asking if Prof. F. de M. could not secure a permanent Portuguese visa for him, as he seemed anxious to spend some time in Portugal. Authorization for a permanent visa was sent to the Portuguese Consulate at Toulouse a week ago. They have not heard from Meyerhof since. The Portuguese are quite unable to consider offering M. any space or facilities for his scientific work; they only have a small institute of physiological chemistry here, and the same is true of Coimbra. They feel that if they invited Meyerhof to come and work here, they would have to create a separate department for him, with laboratories, and this they cannot do for lack of funds. I am mentioning this "en passant", just to let you know what we over here know about Meyerhof, in case A.V.Hill in his cable to you was merely inquiring about M's whereabouts. The permanent Portuguese visa was granted to M. on the basis of "visiting professor" who is planning to give a series of lectures here."

With many more thanks for the trouble you took to write me about the bank account problem, and with kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to A. V. Hill, written in dark ink.